AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Referring to FIG. 1, the present invention presents an integrated travel market broker system 100 that integrates travel service suppliers and buyers in a manner that is independent from a particular computer system, such as a GDS system. This system facilitates substantial technology independence from, or limited dependence on, the GDSs, thereby achieving a network that is business driven, business responsive and enabling a company to become an industry leader. Travel service suppliers [[145]] 199 may be any entity that has a legal right to sell travel services. This may include traditional suppliers such as name brand carriers, consolidators, and liquidators, as well as those suppliers who have purchased inventory, such as suppliers who have purchased inventory via a sponsored Travel Commodities Exchange system.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] With continued reference to FIG. 1, in accordance with an exemplary embodiment, travel market broker system 100 comprises a travel network 110, one or more GDS systems 120, and one or more multi-use point of service (POS) terminals 130 located at travel offices and other sites. The customer terminals may be located anywhere in the world and are connected to travel network 110 such that the users (i.e., travelers and travel counselors) of the terminals have access to GDS systems and other features of the system

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100 as will be described in detail below. In addition, system 100 includes travel managers (i.e., travel service buyers) 135 and travel service suppliers [[145]] 199.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] With continued reference to FIG. 1, users 132, travel managers 135, and travel inventory suppliers 199 [[145]] may be connected directly to network 110, such that the external customers have direct access to the travel network. In this manner, users 130, travel managers 135, and travel inventory suppliers 199 [[145]] may access various features of the system as described below.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, travel market broker system 100 may provide a suitable website or other Internet-based graphical user interface which is accessible by users 130, travel managers 135, and travel inventory suppliers 199 [[145]] and other users of the system. Travel inventory suppliers 199 [[145]] may qualify and register for participation in travel market broker system 100. In addition, travel inventory suppliers 199 [[145]] may terminate participation in the system. In one embodiment, the Internet Information Server, Microsoft Transaction Server, and Microsoft SQL Server, are used in conjunction with the Microsoft operating system, Microsoft NT web server software, a Microsoft SQL database system, and a Microsoft Commerce Server. Additionally, components such as Access Sequel Server, Oracle, MySQL,

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Intervase, etc., may be used to provide an ADO-compliant database management system. The term "webpage" as it is used herein is not meant to limit the type of documents and applications that might be used to interact with the user. For example, a typical website might include, in addition to standard HTML documents, various forms, Java applets, Javascript, active server pages (ASP), common gateway interface scripts (CGI), extensible markup language (XML), dynamic HTML, cascading style sheets (CSS), helper applications, plug-ins, and the like.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] Referring now to FIG. 4, databases 144 provide substantially private, secure, and confidential storage of all travel data including traveler data, corporate client data, and the Market Information Data Tape (MIDT). Databases 144 include traveler market broker database 145, traveler profile database 146, PNR database 148, corporate negotiated programs database 152, and travel history data warehouse 154. Travel service suppliers 199 [[145]] may post and edit inventory in the travel market broker database 145. The posted inventory may include information concerning dates and time, geographic location, quantity, price ranges, amenities, restrictions and other relevant information. The inventory may be viewed by travel service buyers 135 who may browse and perform queries on the inventory using a user interface 138.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] Travel service buyers 135 may access traveler history data warehouse 154 to obtain current information on traveler's future travel plans such as volume of travel, destinations, dates, times, carriers, cost, and other travel itinerary details. Travel service buyers 135 may use this information to place orders to suppliers in order to reduce travel cost and get better deals. The orders may include details such as date and time range of travel, geographic location, quantity, price range, required minimum difference between price and the corporate negotiated price, desired amenities, and other trip requirements. Travel service suppliers 199 [[145]] may then place bids for the orders in a reverse auction fashion. The travel service suppliers" bids may be "opaque" such that competitors and current customers cannot see the bid. This will allow suppliers to discretely unload inventory at lower prices than available through their retail channels and without drawing attention from competitors or current customers. The suppliers may not be able to view the responses of their competitors. The travel service suppliers may configure alerts for types of orders that are desired to be acted upon. In addition, a matching function may be provided that determines which previously posted inventory or returned bids satisfy a placed order and returns the results to the travel service buyer for final selection and approval.